

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8568

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 488

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2800

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD

SUBJ: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES EC CHEESE

1. WE HAVE TRANSMITTED THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN REFTEL#TO FIELDING, WHO, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH LARDINOIS' CABINET AND BARLEBO-LARSEN IN THE AGRICULTURE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, HAS GIVEN US THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE:

I. THE COMMISSION ACCEPTS THE CHANGE PROPOSED IN PARA 1A REFTEL.

II. THE COMMISSION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE TO THE CHANGE PROPOSED IN PARA 1B: "THE COMMUNITY'S EXPORT REFUNDS ON ALL OTHER CHEESES WERE SET BY THE COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 6, 1975 AND THE POLICY GOVERNING THEM REMAINS UNCHANGED."

III. THE COMMISSION PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE TO THE CHANGE PROPOSED IN PARA 1C, REFTEL: "IN REGARD TO COMMUNITY
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EMMENTHAL AND GRUYERE EXPORTS, INCLUDING FOR PROCESSING,

(EC CODE 280000), THE COMMISSION WILL INSURE BY ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL THAT THIS CATEGORY OF CHEESE SHOULD ARRIVE ON THE US MARKET AT A WHOLESALE PRICE AT LEAST 12 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE SAME CATEGORY AND QUALITY OF US DOMESTIC CHEESE."

2. FIELDING MADE THE FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENTS ON THE ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED BY THE COMMISSION IN PARAGRAPH II ABOVE.

(A) THE DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS CONCERNED CHEESE BUT NOT ALL OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS, AND THE COMMISSION WOULD PREFER THAT THE LETTER CONFINE ITSELF TO CHEESE.

(B) IN THE DISCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO FIELDING, THE US RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE NO DIFFICULTIES ON THE OTHER TABLE CHEESES. THE COMMISSION MAY WISH TO MAKE SOME MARGINAL CHANGES UP OR DOWN IN THE EXPORT PAYMENTS ON TABLE CHEESES DURING THE COMING YEAR. HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THAT THE LEVELS SHOULD BE THE SAME FROM HERE ON OUT. ON FEBRUARY 6 THE COMMISSION FIXED THE LEVELS ON EXPORT PAYMENTS AND IT INTENDS TO CONTINUE THE POLICY EMBODIED IN THOSE DECISIONS ON LEVELS BUT NOT BIND THOSE LEVELS WITHOUT CHANGE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, BARLEBO-LARSEN SAID THAT THE COMMISSION RECOGNIZES THE SPECIAL CASE OF CHEDDAR AND THAT FOR IT, AS IN THE CASE OF COLBY AND MONTERREY, THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT REINTRODUCE A REFUND WITHOUT PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S.

3. FIELDING OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENT ON THE CHANGE PROPOSED IN III:

THERE IS NO COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION FOR PROCESSED CHEESES, WHICH MAY CONTAIN EMMENTHAL AND GRUYERE AS PART OF THEIR INGREDIENTS. PROCESSED CHEESES IN THE COMMUNITY ARE CLASSIFIED BY FAT CONTENT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT THEY ARE MADE FROM. THERE IS NOT WAY UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM TO DIFFERENTIATE PROCESSED CHESES CONTAINING SOME EMMENTHAL AND GRUYERE FROM THOSE CONTAINING NO EMMENTHAL OR GRUYERE. IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS, THE PROCESSED CHESE CATEGORIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE NOT THE FOCUS OF THE PRICE DIFFERENCE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH CONCENTRATED ON THE U.S. DAIRY INDUSTRY'S VIVID CONCERN ABOUT THE SENSITIVE AREA ENCOMPASSED BY CHEESE (INCLUDING EMMENTHAL AND GRUYERE) USED IN PROCESSING AS WELL AS EMMENTHAL AN GRUYERE FOR TABLE USE.GREENWALD

NOTE BY OC/T:#REFTEL NOT LISTED.

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